

Arts in the Parks

Salamonie Lake and Salamonie River State Forest Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2952.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- The 13,336 acre property was “built” in the 1960s as part of the Upper Wabash Reservoir system, with lands owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The primary function of Salamonie Lake is flood control, with recreation and wildlife management being secondary. There are 60 ponds, marshes and wetlands. The State Forest is the largest in northern Indiana.
- Cultural History of the Area – The Miami Indians were the original inhabitants of this area, and responsible for the naming of the Salamonie River. Eventually, small towns were established and ultimately removed during the building of the flood plan. The Salamonie River State Forest owes its history to the on-site Civilian Conservation Corps camp that planted forest trees, created Hominy Ridge Lake, and was where two structures survive. Dan Quayle's, the forty-fourth U.S. vice president, hometown of Huntington is 20 minutes away from the property.
- Natural beauty – Diverse wildlife habitats on the Lake Property; Waterfalls and deep ravines located at the State Forest. The historical Wabash – Erie Canal, Kerr Lock, and St. Patrick Church are located near the State Forest in the town of Lagro, each rich in Irish history.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Water sports: Skiing, tubing, boating, fishing, etc.
- There are trails available for all endurance levels, most being through hardwood and pine forests. The Bloodroot Trail is a 13-mile loop consisting of a broad range of habitats, offering the hiker or biker scenic views of the lake.
- Salamonie Nature Center is open seven days a week to the public, offering a wildlife viewing area, live and mounted native animals, a “history” porch including recordings of Miami Indians, a former resident of Monument City (removed during creation of the lake), and an informational recording of the dam structure.
- Horseback riding. Extensive trails available for horse owners. Overnight primitive camping or day use available.
- Wildlife viewing: Abundant wildlife are often seen by visitors during all seasons. The State Forest is well-known for its spring bird migrants. Each winter there is an increase in bald eagle populations which attracts hundreds (if not thousands) of folks to the area.

Lodging: Modern and primitive camping available in Lost Bridge West, as well as two sites to backpack to on the Bloodroot Trail. Salamonie River State Forest provides horseman's campground and primitive camping.

General visitor profile: campers (weekends or weeklong); day-users for picnics and hiking; visiting the nature center; school groups in spring/summer; scout and other groups for volunteer service; groups in the group camps; photographers, birdwatchers, hikers.



Potential arts venues:

- Amphitheaters available: bench seating hosts nearly 100 people, open area for blanket / lawn chairs, electricity, stage, portable screen, no shelter cover.
- Various shelter houses:
- CCC Shelter at Salamonie River State Forest, pit toilets, partially closed in; open shelter at the interpretive center: seats 75, electricity, air conditioning, kitchen, bathrooms nearby.
- Nature Center:
 - Projector, screen, seats 75 with table option, air, restrooms,

Visitation in FY2014: 608,858

Nearby Communities: Andrews, Huntington, Wabash, Marion, Lagro, Ft. Wayne.

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

